

(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

Strength in unity!

Sgt. Christopher Shupert (right), a squad leader from Amsterdam, Mo., with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and Sgt. Salaam, Schupert's counterpart with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division, strike a pose just prior to moving out on a joint patrol in Baghdad's Adhamiyah security district Feb. 28.

Iraqi Police graduates key to the future

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Recruits of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi National Police graduated from training at Forward Operating Base Falcon March 28, the first group of "shurta," Arabic for police, to come onto a U.S. forward operating base and receive complete, 24-hour-a-day training by a National Police Training

Team.

Capt. Scott Hubbard, the operations officer of 3-6 NPTT from Vassar, Mich., said the initial focus of the team was not to train.

"Immediately when we took this mission on, we noticed biggest problem was the (Iraqi National Police) were not trained," Hubbard said. "Training is not what we thought we would do, but we had to put a huge band-aid on the situation so they would not endanger themselves or the

coalition forces they are working with.

"Our job is to teach them to teach themselves."

Hubbard said that after noticing the initial deficiencies, the team came up with a two-week training program that would empower the police to perform their primary mission of protecting the neighborhood.

The training program includes weapons marksmanship, drill and ceremo-

See **Future** Page 2

Recruits become "shurta" at FOB Falcon

Future

From Page 1

ny, physical training and ethics classes. Once the recruits execute those tasks to standard they move on to team exercises such as precision room-clearing and conducting raids.

The trainers, who prepared for their deployment at Fort Riley, Kan., all have some form experience training U.S. Soldiers, from reserve drill sergeants to instructors in advanced individual training. Likewise, many of the recruits have prior experience in the Iraqi Army.

Abd Al-Ameer Kadum, a graduate from the class who also served in the Iraqi Army since the Iran-Iraq War, said he appreciated the training.

"During this time that we spent here on this (base), we got good training," the Baghdad native said. "They care about us a lot. We want to say thanks for our American brothers."

Hubbard said instructing the recruits was made easier due to the fact that they embraced a key element in training: discipline. Discipline is embraced by the Iraqi people, the operations officer said. This cultural attitude motivated the shurta to do their best in training.

"The men were excited and very proud



(Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

Staff Sgt. Andrew Palmer, a trainer with the 3rd Bn., 6th Bde. NPTT, fixes a recruit's prone firing position during pre-marksmanship instruction in Baghdad March 24.

to get formalized training like this," he said.

One of the key points Hubbard said he wanted the new police officers to take away from their training cycle is how to treat the Iraqi people.

"The way they treat them as policemen will decide whether (local residents) go against the Iraqi government or if they come on board," he said. "These people are here to protect them and they need to understand

that."

Hubbard said police staying involved with their local community is vital to the success of their mission.

"They need to embrace their community, and start doing the right thing from this day forward," he said. "I believe that they're ready to do that. They understand this is the key to victory."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

hadiith

**Defined:
modern**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

**High: 73
Low: 54**



Tomorrow

**High: 77
Low: 57**



Thursday

**High: 81
Low: 54**

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(U.S. Army Photo)

Pictured are some of the confiscated unauthorized weapons on display after the completion of Operation Babylon Sweep March 27. The operation was led by the ISF and confiscated unauthorized weapons in the city, south of Baghdad.

Baghdad in Brief

Phone tip leads to kidnapped victims rescue

BAGHDAD - Coalition forces rescued two male Iraqi citizens who were kidnapped at a checkpoint March 31. The two men were traveling on a motor scooter when they were stopped by two men dressed as Iraqi Army soldiers, who detained them and made a cell phone call.

A short time later, eight men, suspected of being militia members, showed up at the checkpoint. They beat the two men while the alleged Iraqi Army troops watched.

A phone tip to a hotline run by 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, spurred a series of events that eventually led to the rescue of the two men.

The two kidnapped men were found in what appeared to be a torture house, still bound and badly beaten. The victims were taken by coalition forces to a nearby base and given immediate medical treatment.

Also found at the house were two 107mm rocket rounds, two sets of body armor, five sets of handcuffs, a makeshift mortar tube and one rocket-propelled grenade round.

An investigation is underway to determine if they were actually Iraqi Army soldiers.

Operation disarms insurgents

4-25 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq - An Iraqi security force led operation executed a city wide weapons confiscation campaign March 27 in Hillah.

The 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division soldiers and Hillah Iraqi Police worked together to conduct a cordon and search operation to confiscate unauthorized weapons, detain 14 insurgents, and secure bomb-making materials in Hillah and outlying areas.


A military transition team from

425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division assisted in command and control.

The weapons that were confiscated included 124 AK-47 rifles, 15 various 7.62 rifles, fifteen pistols, one shotgun, 84 AK-47 ammunition magazines and 10 pistol magazines.

Eighteen sticks of C-4 explosives were found and secured, and 14 insurgents were detained and are being held for questioning.



More than 700 Iraqi security force personnel took part in the operation.



OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM



WATER & ELECTRICITY
DON'T MIX

Allowing electrical wires, outlets and equipment to get saturated with water can be deadly. Ensure the electricity for your equipment and the rising water of the rainy season remain separated, otherwise you could get the shock of your life.

HOME ALIVE AFTER OIF V

Supply support Soldiers keep missions moving

By Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq - In a yard, just minutes away from a tactical operations center, on Camp Striker, Iraq lies a secret - a secret that remains untold until it is visited.

Soldiers of the supply support activity, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) work every day at the SSA yard to ensure the supply flow runs smoothly while in Iraq.

The Soldiers provide a variety of classes of supplies to include food, office, petroleum, barriers, repair parts and major end items.

Currently, the SSA provides service to about 150 customers and stocks 3,794 lines of separate parts supporting more units than just the 2nd BCT.

"I love to be able to support the customers here and out in sector," Sgt. LeMarkisha Hill, the SSA stock control noncommissioned officer in charge and native of New York, N.Y. "We make sure supplies are available so Soldiers can continue their missions."

Although the supply system may seem like a relatively easy job to the average person, the system is quite complex.

The SSA consists of several different stations that are manned by different Soldiers.

"It is hard to understand the SSA unless you have seen each part of it," explained 1st Lt. Jay Schulz, a native of Kenosha, Wisc., who serves as a 210th BSB general support platoon leader.

The hub of SSA is known as the stock control section.

This section is responsible for keeping accountability of the shipping, requisitioning, issuing and inventorying reports of all items.

"Each day we perform three different types of transactions, one in the morning, noon and the evening," Hill said of the stock control section. "Often, customers can get items the same day if we have them on hand. We do a walk through to see if we have the items the customer may be looking for."

The first of the SSA is the receiving station. Soldiers work nightlong to inventory incoming supplies and get the new items ready for the day-shift Soldiers.

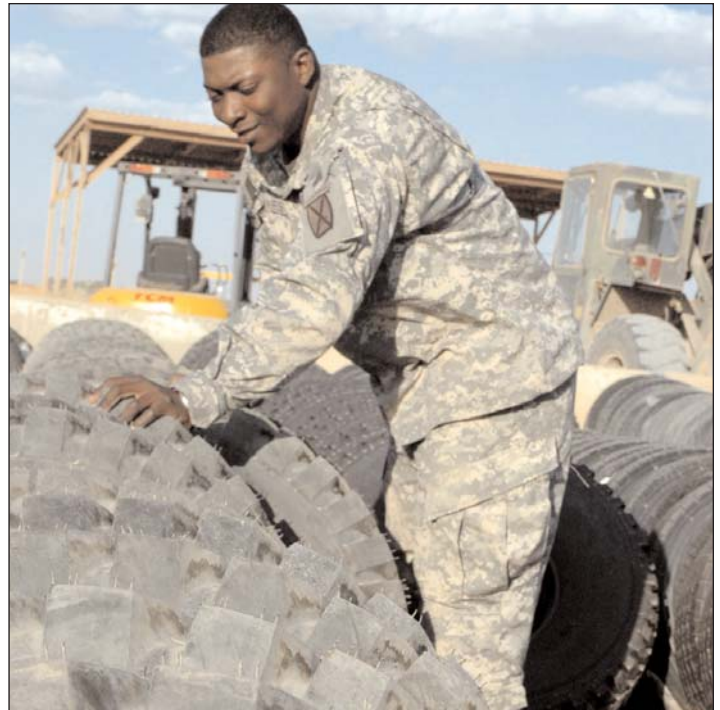
"We have these Soldiers work at night to minimize the traffic at the SSA," Schulz explained.

After the items are ordered and received they are placed in their appropriate places.

One place that the supplies are placed is known as the storage section, which consists of 50 large, connexes metal shipping containers of repair parts, 14 connexes of petroleum, oil and lubrication supplies and 20 additional smaller connexes of other repair parts. The Soldiers in this section work all day ensuring that each part is put in its proper location.

"You stay busy all day," said Spc. Joel Reyes, a native of New York, N.Y., who serves as an SSA supply clerk. "We are constantly receiving and pushing out parts."

And when supplies are broken or items, such as a vehicle that was too damaged to be fixed from an improvised explosive device, are no longer serviceable or there are simply



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Jean Canneus, the supply support activity movement control NCOIC of the 210th BSB, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., inventories tires at the SSA yard on Camp Striker, Iraq.

excess items the SSA's turn-in section takes care of getting rid of.

When the supplies are ready to be given to the customer the issuing section takes the reins and works with the units to make sure the customers get their supplies.

"As soon as we get the parts we notify the customers right away," said Sgt. Luis Cribillero, the issuing section NCOIC and native of Queens, N.Y. "It is a demanding job and very long hours, but we will do anything to complete the mission."

Although many supplies come in small packages, there are others that require forklifts to move them. The movement control section, which contains the only forklifts in the 2nd BCT, is responsible for loading and downloading a variety of

items.

"The pallets of water that you see near the trailers and the TOC are put there by Soldiers of the SSA's movement control section," Schulz said.

"We move anything from Hesco barriers to lumber for force protection," said Sgt. Jean Canneus, the SSA movement control NCOIC and native of Boston, Mass.

As complex as the SSA's operation may be the Soldiers, who are currently understaffed, continue to provide quality service to their customers.

"These Soldiers have performed way beyond my expectations," said Chief Warrant Officer Julio Hall, the 210th BSB supply systems technician and native of Grafton, N.H. "These are the most outstanding group of Soldiers I have worked with."

Soldiers sacrifice for Baghdad security

By Spc. L.B. Edgar
7th MPAD

MANSOUR, Baghdad - Perched in a crow's nest with a .50-caliber machinegun at an arm's length the Soldier scans the unforgiving streets of Baghdad for insurgents intent on wreaking carnage. The thoughts of the 22-year-old Soldier fly like a bat out of hell. But his mind always leads him to the most familiar place he knows - home.

For Pfc. Tyrell Mankaja, a security element member who spends the majority of his day and night seated with eyes peeled on his sector, this is just a typical day at Joint Security Station Mansour in the Jamia neighborhood of the Mansour district, where home seems all too far away.

Suddenly, the normal sounds of everyday life were shattered by an explosion, which shook the building. A vehicle-borne explosive device had detonated at an Iraqi Army checkpoint nearby. The attack illustrated the real threat, which lies dormant outside the Joint Security Station on many days, but awakes to attack coalition forces or Iraqi security forces at random.

Such is the threat Mankaja, a native of Beach Springs, Ariz., guards JSS Mansour against - an insurgency - an enemy within the people.

The JSS was stood up by Mankaja's unit, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, more than two months ago, as part of Operation Fardh Al Qanoon, more commonly referred to as the Baghdad Security Plan.

Less than five minutes after the car bomb broke the calm of the otherwise uneventful day, the guiding hand behind the Baghdad Security Plan stopped by JSS Mansour to see the progress of Soldiers like Mankaja.

General David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Forces - Iraq, talked with Soldiers, who were instrumental in executing the plan, while touring the facility.

Petraeus met with the leadership of the Iraqi Army soldiers, who live and work



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Pfc. Tyrell Mankaja, a security element member of the Mortar Platoon of HHC, 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., checks the streets of Jamia for enemy activities while guarding Joint Security Station Mansour in Baghdad's Mansour district March 27.

with U.S. troops on a day-to-day basis. He encouraged the commander of 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf., Regt., 10th Iraqi Army Div.

"It's your country. You've got to go out and take it back," he said to the Iraqi troops. "We need Iraqis to want this as much as we do."

In order for ISF to take back their country from the insurgency, Soldiers like Mankaja, are serving as role models to their Iraqi counterparts.

"Since I've been here I've seen a lot of changes. Their tactics are better," the mortar man said. "In a way, it kind of makes you feel good because you're helping someone else to help their country."

However, despite the early success, Petraeus said the Baghdad Security Plan is far from complete.

"It's off to a solid start, but there is a long way to go and we only have about 40 percent of the additional forces on the ground so far," he said. "Our Soldiers partnered with Iraqi soldiers and police have made a difference in the neighborhoods in

which they've become established. The idea is to, in fact, bring better security to the Iraqi people, so they can reopen their businesses (and) send their kids to school without fear."

To accomplish this objective, Soldiers like Mankaja, have had to sacrifice the relative comforts of large, fortified base complexes for the austere living conditions of Combat Outposts and JSSs like Mansour.

There are no hot showers, Post Exchanges or dining facilities for the Soldiers to enjoy. Though the creature comforts are in the rear and not every meal is a hot one, Soldiers like Mankaja, adapt to their environment and take pleasure in what few amenities they are afforded.

Letters from home help take the Soldiers away from their Spartan conditions, if only for a little while.

"That helps me out a lot," Mankaja said of receiving letters from home. "It's a morale builder. It feels good to just sit down and read a letter - see how everyone is back home."